



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

YONKERS MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT IN ARMS EXPORT SCHEME

NEW YORK, NY-- DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Martin D. Ficke, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in New York announced that FERNANDO SERO, a/k/a Ferdie Resada, pled guilty today to shipping United States defense articles, including weapons and weapons parts, to the Island of Mindanao in the Southern Philippines in violation of the Arms Export Control Act. According to the Indictment, SERO shipped items classified as "defense articles" by the U.S. State Department to the Philippines on four separate occasions.

SERO admitted today before United States Magistrate Judge LISA MARGARET SMITH that he shipped weapons parts to the Southern Philippines in March 2005. During his plea allocution, SERO admitted that the items shipped included fully automatic weapons parts for AK 47 and AR 15 assault rifles. SERO further admitted that he shipped these defense articles without seeking the required license from the U.S. State Department.

According to the Indictment, returned on March 31, 2005, SERO, a Yonkers resident, shipped weapons to the Philippines on September 9, 11 and 12, of 2003 and again on March 22, 2005, shortly before he was arrested.

SERO, 35, of Yonkers, New York, is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court in White Plains on September 29, 2005, at 9:30 A.M. The maximum penalty for a violation of the Arms Export Control Act is ten years' imprisonment and a fine in the amount of \$1,000,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime, whichever is greater.

Mr. KELLEY said that the plea was the result of an investigation by the United States Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and praised their efforts.

Assistant United States Attorney PERRY A. CARBONE is in charge of the prosecution.

The information contained in this news release was taken directly from a release issued by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.